

REMARKS

Claim Rejections

Claims 1-4, 6-7, 9, 11-12, 14-16 and 18-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over the combination of U.S. Patent No. 5,470,079 (LeStrange et al.); U.S. Patent Publication No. US2002/0152120A1 (Howington); U.S. Patent No. 5, 759,103 (Freels et al.); and U.S. Patent Publication No. U.S. 2002/0187834A1 (Rowe et al.). Claims 5, 8, 26-27 and 29 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over the combination of LeStrange et al., Howington, Freels et al., Rowe et al. and U.S. Patent Publication No. US2003/0069071A1 (Britt et al.).

Claim Amendments

The claims are amended. Claim 30 is added.

The Cited References

LeStrange et al. discloses a game machine accounting and monitoring system which includes a game monitoring unit 16, a computer network interface 18 and a central or host computer system 20. (Col. 5, lines 6-9). The accounting system can support accounting of multiple games within a single gaming machine. (Col. 11, lines 59-62). As such, when a game change event 45 occurs, the game monitoring unit 16 transmits a game change message to the host computer 20. The meter data that accompanies that message represents the last meter values for the previous game. (Col. 12, lines 17-20).

Howington discloses a casino resort management system that provides a location identifier for each location within a casino, a placard identifier for each placard and a machine identifier for each gaming machine. (§006). A placard indicates the machine brand, model and the denomination that a machine accepts (i.e., quarters or nickels). (§004). As shown in FIG. 2, the placard identifier includes a placard number “042052” used to denote a machine code, for example, “04”, that indicates a quarter slot machine, and a machine number “2052” that identifies a single machine with this particular denomination. (§0026). This system maintains and tracks machines and location history in a manner which allows for the changing of machine placards without losing historical machine or location information. (§0028). The system includes a sample system display 400 which displays, among other things, the location identifier, the placard identifier, and the denomination for a particular machine. (§0029). The individual machines are not configured to operate with multiple denominations or games of different types. (FIGS 2 and 4, §004, §0026, and §0029).

Freels et al. discloses an apparatus for collecting and processing payout vouchers from video slot machines. (Col. 2, lines 47-50).

Rowe et al. discloses a system for monitoring game play. A host stores and transmits game play data. (Abstract).

Britt et al. discloses an entertainment monitoring system 100 and method 200 for use in a gaming environment. The entertainment monitoring system includes a plurality of electronic gaming machines 102. (§0087).

Applicants' Claimed Invention Would Not Have Been Obvious

Three criteria must be met to establish obviousness. First, the prior art must provide one of ordinary skill in the art with a suggestion or motivation to modify or combine the teachings of the references relied upon in rejecting the claims. Second, the prior art must provide one of ordinary skill in the art with a reasonable expectation of success. Third, the prior art, either alone or in combination, must teach or suggest each and every limitation of the rejected claims. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed invention, as well as the reasonable expectation of success, must come from the prior art and not from Applicants' disclosure. If any one of these criteria is not met, a case of obviousness is not established. Also, some articulated reasoning with rational underpinnings must be provided to support a *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Applicants' claimed accounting system of amended claim 1, for instance, calls for a receiver configured to collect from a single game unit on which poker, blackjack or keno may be played first meter information from a first unique combination of a game, a program and a denomination in a single game unit and second meter information from a second unique combination of a game, a program and a denomination in the single game unit. The first meter information and the second meter information for the unique combinations in the single game unit are collected at the same time. The accounting system also includes a database configured to store the collected information and a calculator structured to generate additional information from the collected information for the unique combinations in the single game unit.

This accounting system can be used with multi-game, multi-denomination (MGMD) machines. These machines allow a player to select the denomination of the wager unit, the game type and the exact game pay schedule to be played. Each possible combination of denomination, game type and game pay schedule may result in a unique theoretical hold percentage and have different levels of player acceptance. Thus, an accounting system that allows for the computation and tracking of slot handle, slot win, individual game hold percentage, machine hold percentage and game hold percentage for each of the possible unique combinations in a

single MGMD game unit is very useful. (Applicants' specification at page 2, lines 11-21; page 4, line 25 to page 6, line 12).

The accounting system of LeStrange et al. "can be used with a variety of different types of gaming machines such as slot machines, video poker games and video lottery systems". (Col. 4, lines 61-63). The accounting system of LeStrange et al. also "supports accounting of multiple games within a single gaming machine, which is common in video lottery systems." (Col. 11, lines 60-62).

LeStrange et al. fails to disclose a gaming machine on which different types of games, such as poker, blackjack or keno, may be played. Instead, LeStrange et al. discloses an accounting system which is used with games of the same type, such as video lottery games, which are played one after the other.

Additionally, LeStrange et al. fails to disclose or suggest multi-denomination gaming machines. Howington also fails to disclose multi-denomination gaming machines.

The casino resort management system of Howington is operable with gaming machines that play only a single game and accept only a single denomination. The denomination, for example, may be a quarter or a nickel. (§§004). As clearly shown in subwindow 402 of FIG. 4, in the column labeled "Denom", each gaming machine accepts but one denomination, that is, nickels, quarters or dollars. A single machine does not accept nickels, quarters and dollars. Rather, it accepts only one of these denominations. (§§004, 0026 and 0029; FIGS.2 and 4).

The system of Howington does not deal with MGMD machines. The system is configured to provide a location identifier for each location within a casino, a placard identifier for each placard and a machine identifier for each gaming machine. (§006). The Howington system is designed to eliminate the problems associated with using placards that are moved from one gaming machine to another or with gaming machines that are moved from one location to another. (§§004, 005). The system tracks a machine and location history in a manner which allows for the changing of machine placards without losing historical machine or location information. (§0028).

Further, amended claim 1 specifies that the receiver is configured to collect the first and second meter information for the different unique combinations at the same time. As explained in Applicants' specification, meters from all DPCs (denomination/game/program combinations) within a cabinet should be gathered at the same time. (page 13, lines 17-22). The cited references do not disclose an accounting system that operates in this way.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all the claims are now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, allowance of the claims at the earliest possible date is requested.

If prosecution of this application can be assisted by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' undersigned attorney at (510) 663-1100.

If any fees are due in connection with the filing of this amendment (including any fees due for an extension of time), such fees may be charged to Deposit Account No. 504480 (Order No. IGT1P312).

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